

Meeting Minutes
Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team
City Hall
[January 29, 2014]

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ben Bassett	_____	__X__
Steven Beavers	__X__	_____
P. J. Brennan	__X__	_____
Rebecca Hayes	_____	__X__
James Jalandoni	_____	__X__
Eric Maring	_____	__X__
Denise Mitchell	__X__	_____
Christine Nagle	__X__	_____
Chrissy Rey	_____	__X__
Terry Schum	_____	__X__
Loree Talley	__X__	_____
Patrick L. Wojahn	_____	__X__

Also Present:

Andrew M. Fellows, Mayor; William Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Mathew Popkin, Intern; Faheem Mahmooth, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

Mr. Beavers called the first Greet Team meeting of 2014 to order at 7:10 PM.

Agenda Items

Overview of Action Plan and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Earlier in the day Mr. Beavers had sent out a list of possible sustainability initiatives that the city could pursue, but, after a conversation with Sustainable Maryland, Mr. Beavers informed the Green Team that he was advised to stay within the approved plan that was written by Mr. Brown and approved by the Green Team. Other initiatives could be persued in upcoming years.

Mr. Beavers estimated that the city will be able to achieve most of the items on the city's year 2 and year 3 action plan by the end of August 2014. However, Mr. Beavers also mentioned that the Bikeshare program might be difficult to complete by that date. While reviewing the action items already completed, Mr. Beavers informed the team that the city has already adopted the Maryland Smart Energy Policy and that Ms. Talley will rewrite the narrative for the Smart Leaf Compost program as an "innovative demonstration" project for points. The city's Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Stiefvater informed Mr. Beavers that two businesses were interested in registering in the Maryland Green Registry that Mr. Stiefvater had promoted at the

business round table that was held earlier in the day. Two other business in the city are already registered.

Concerning the year 3 action item of writing a Green Street Grant, Mr. Beavers informed the committee that at the next City Council meeting the City Council will be asked to support a submission to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a Green Street Grant and to implement the Maryland Smart Energy Community Program, which is currently in progress and includes another energy audit. This will be funded by the Maryland Smart Energy Grant that the city was already awarded.

Mr. Beavers pointed out that he did not notice any items on the action plan concerning Maryland Green Schools. He also noticed that there is an opening on the Green Team for a school representative. Ms. Schum had suggested that Mr. Beavers get in contact with Friends' Community School, which is already a lead certified building. Even though they are not within the city boundary, Mr. Beavers reassured the committee that nearby schools would qualify and help the city meet its goals with Sustainable Maryland. Mr. Gardiner suggested getting in touch with Ms. Higgins as she would also be able to assist the team on this matter.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus.

Business Recycling Program

Ms. Talley said that the follow up to the original business recycling survey was sent out and that she had received 88 responses which amounts to about a 20% response rate. She hopes to send a follow-up email next week, and then schedule a meeting to discuss the results. Ms. Talley explained the business recycling program is part of the Committee for a Better Environment. They also have \$25,000 in business recycling incentive funding that could be given out as grants to local businesses for capital improvement in order to for them to start recycling.

Mr. Beavers informed the committee that Mr. Stiefvater had mentioned the idea of forming a central location for recycle bins at the Business Roundtable Meeting, which had a favorable response. Mr. Beavers suggested looking into a possible location to start a pilot project. Ms. Talley in response to Mr. Gardiner's question reminded the committee that the county regulation concerning recycling will go into effect on July 1, 2014.

Councilmember Brenan asked if multifamily buildings would be eligible for the grant funding. Ms. Talley was not sure about the wording of the grant, but she mentioned that the recycle initiative is currently only focused on businesses.

In response to Councilmember Brenan's inquiry about city legislation on recycling, Mayor Fellows replied that the last city legislation on recycling moved the city's recycling to single steam, which has increased the rate of recycling for single family homes. Although there might be opportunities to pass new legislation, they may not be necessary due to the county legislation due to go into effect.

Ms. Talley suggested that the City Council could discuss the possibility of providing only recycle hauling services without trash hauling services. Mr. Gardiner suggested asking the Public Works Department about the city's ability to take on this service

Councilmember Mitchell suggested looking into the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources' Rain Rebate program that offers incentives to business.

Mr. Popkin suggested the possibility of joining into the recycle hauling services provided to the University.

Mr. Beavers suggested that it might be useful to meet with the University's Public Works Department. Mayor Fellows suggested talking to the city's Public Works Director, as he had previously been employed at the University's Public Works Department. Mayor Fellows also suggested contacting Ms. Balachandran, who, as an active member in Sierra Waste, did a recycling presentation for the county.

Community Gardens

Concerning community gardens, Mr. Beavers suggested working with the director of Attic Towers, James Simpson, to build on the community garden already at the site. Mr. Popkin suggested looking into the possibility for starting rooftop gardens. Ms. Talley suggested pursuing it as a separate action item in addition to the community garden.

Councilmember Brenan mentioned that the neighbors surrounding the Washington Post property he had mentioned at the previous meeting do not want it developed into residential lots. Instead, he suggested that the city should consider purchasing the property from the Washington Post to turn it into a garden or playground, even though the Washington Post had already taken the property off the market. Mr. Gardiner suggested that the University could provide the city with a contact for the Washington Post.

Mr. Beavers mentioned that the property would be next to a large bioswale project that the city hopes will be funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. In addition, the permaculture project that Mr. Beavers had discussed with CBE, could also be constructed on this property. The Mayor suggested that Ms. Schum from the city's Planning Department would have to check on the availability of the property.

Mayor Fellows inquired about the possibility of using the current community garden at Attic Towers to fulfill the requirement of the action plan. Mr. Gardiner asked about the status of the community carbon footprint. Mr. Beavers can find out about its status.

Other Action Items

Sustainable Maryland had informed Mr. Beavers that there is currently no plan to pursue the Idea Fair at the University. As an alternative, Mr. Beavers suggested that Sustainable Maryland attend the city's Back to Work Day in May. Councilmember Brenan suggested that Sustainable Maryland could also consider coming out to the city's farmers market.

Ms. Nagle inquired from Mr. Beavers if the city needs to report back to Sustainable Maryland as the city is already a certified Sustainable Community. Mr. Beavers said that it would be a good idea to report back once a year as Sustainable Maryland proposed plans to add additional levels of certification in future years (i.e. Bronze, Silver, Gold, etc).

Councilmember Brenan suggested making the resource library an online library instead of pursuing the idea as a physical library. He also suggested that if the city does acquire physical books, then the city could place those books in the community library on Rhode Island Avenue. Mr. Beavers acknowledged that that would be a good idea. Although he was not sure if the Green Team had its own webpage, Mr. Beavers will look into creating one.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 19, 2014. Mayor Fellows asked if the Green Team has a budget request from the City Council, and suggested discussing this issue over emails.

Minutes prepared by Faheem A. Mahmooth